

LIBRARY

Bromyard Rural District

HEREFORDSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1945



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28959206>

Staff of the Public Health Department

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---|
| Medical Officer of Health | ... | ... | H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H. |
| Acting Medical Officer of Health (Deputy County Medical Officer) | ... | ... | I. F. MACKENZIE, M.D. (Edin)., D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (Private Tel., Weobley 59) |
| Clerk | ... | ... | B. J. SCANDRETT (On War Service from 1939) |
| Temporary Clerk | ... | ... | MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT |
| Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor | ... | ... | J. N. S. HARRISON. M.S.I.A., M.I.E.T. (appointed 10-2-45). |

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster (Tel., Leom. 95).

To the Chairman and Members of Bromyard Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS,

I present herewith the Annual report for the year, 1945.

At time of writing, your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. H. F. GREEN, has happily returned from service with H.M. Forces and resumed duty.

The arrangements which were made on the eve of his departure in 1942 were designed to provide a means for emergency action in the event of outbreaks of disease ; and also to enable the really essential day to day duties of your health department to be carried on by medical officers experienced in public health, without reducing further the then serious shortage of medical manpower. Events have demonstrated that this scheme, which was conceived under difficult circumstances, was sound ; and though more responsibility fell on your Sanitary Inspector, he, being conscious that he had the support and backing of the considerable resources of the County Council Public Health Department and of the Medical Research Council's Laboratory service, shouldered it the more happily. Gratitude is due to him for his creditable response to the additional calls made on him during these last four years.

I. F. MACKENZIE,
Acting Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1946.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Area (in Acres) | 61,000 |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to the Rate Books ... | 2,018 |
| Rateable Value | £16,909 |
| Sum represented by a Penny rate | £76 16 6 |

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR :

| | |
|---|------|
| BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population) | 18.9 |
| STILL-BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 Live and Still births) | 27.7 |
| DEATH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population) | 12.8 |
| INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 live births) | 42.8 |
| DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES: No deaths attributable to Puerperal infection occurred during 1945. | |

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1945 :

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Live Birth Rate | 16.1 |
| Death Rate | 11.4 |
| Infantile Mortality Rate | 46.0 |

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is at present under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS.

There are none provided by the authority. Under a County Council Scheme a Child Welfare Clinic is held on alternate Thursdays, at 2 p.m., in Froome Bank, Bromyard. Residents in the Rural Area are invited to attend.

The nearest Venereal Diseases Clinic is at the County Hospital, Hereford.

I am indebted to Mr. J. N. S. Harrison for the following statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-Section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

With the exception of the Council's Houses at Wolferlow and Pencombe, all piped supplies in the District are privately owned.

No complaints of water shortage were reported during the year, but numerous complaints of well and spring water supplies being polluted were received. From these complaints 40 samples were taken 37 being found polluted.

It has been found difficult to obtain satisfactory water samples from springs for the Council's post war Housing programme and several good sites have been turned down owing to the polluted water in the area. It is believed that the cause of the general pollution is the extent of the manured farm lands. Well and spring waters can never be considered satisfactory in this district.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

The only sewer vested in the Council is that serving Bishop's Frome. The out-fall is at a ditch on the Ledbury road. Complaints have been received concerning this sewer and the Council are considering a scheme to remedy the nuisance existing there.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No complaints of pollution have been received during the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

There is no organised refuse collection in the District and no request for collection has been made. The rubbish left on the sites of six disused wartime dumps have been cleared after removal of the scrap material for salvage.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

| | <i>No. of Inspections.</i> | <i>Informal Notices.</i> | <i>Statutory Notices.</i> | <i>Complied with</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Housing Acts | 569 | 24 | 4 | 20 |
| Public Health Act, 1936 ... | 55 | 10 | — | 9 |
| Cowsheds | 160 | 5 | 1 | 5 |
| Factories and Workshops ... | 4 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Bakehouses | 10 | — | — | — |
| Hop-pickers Quarters | 72 | 30 | — | 21 |
| Nuisances (Complaints) ... | 16 | 15 | 2 | 15 |
| Water Supplies | 212 | 24 | 3 | 20 |
| Infectious Disease | 21 | — | — | — |
| Butchers' Shops, etc. | 15 | 1 | — | 1 |

CAMPING SITES.

Three camping sites in the District are licensed. A good water supply is laid on and adequate sanitary accommodation is provided. It was found that a family with 3 children were permanently using a chicken hut and an old caravan on one of these sites. Constant inspections were made and every effort made to requisition a house for this family who had been ejected from their home as it was a tied farm cottage. I am pleased to say the family now have other suitable accommodation.

VERMINOUS PREMISES, ETC.

One complaint was received of a house infected with fleas. The occupant (an old lady) was removed to hospital and the house closed until cleansed and disinfected.

HOP-PICKERS' QUARTERS.

The hop-pickers' quarters in the district were inspected and 72 visits were made. Several contraventions of the bye-laws were found especially with regard to closet accommodation and at one place the sleeping accommodation. Hop growers are being warned that formal action will be taken if these contraventions are not remedied before next season.

The Ministry of Health representative made two half day visits to the district.

There are 56 premises registered for reception of resident pickers.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The Council now own 16 houses situated as follows : Pencombe (4), Much Cowarné (4), Stoke Lacy (4), Wolferlow (2), Avenbury (2),

New houses erected privately during the year : Bishop's Frome (2), Avenbury (2), Thornbury (4).

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

| | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| 1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts | | 409 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | | 569 |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, fit for human habitation | | 319 |

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

| | | |
|--|--------|---|
| Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | | 1 |
| Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serving of formal notices. | | |
| (a) By Owners | | 1 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owner | | 0 |

VAN DWELLINGS.

No cases of vans overstaying the statutory period were noted.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

91 samples of designated milks were taken on behalf of the County Council. There are 2 T.T. and 17 Accredited licence holders in this area.

160 visits were made to inspect Cowsheds and Dairies. Five Cowsheds and Dairies were repaired or improved during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Butchers' shops throughout the district were inspected.

FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Thirteen pounds of bacon were destroyed on account of decomposition. 22½ pounds of butter were surrendered when found to be rancid. Two dozen tins of condensed milk were condemned because of damage during transport.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1945 there was an outbreak of Measles and Whooping Cough ; the former affecting 187 persons and the latter 10. As is usual with Measles, the individuals attacked were mainly in the 1 to 9 age group, but a surprisingly large number of older persons also suffered in this epidemic. There were 12 instances of Scarlet Fever. No cases of Diphtheria occurred throughout the year.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE.

| <i>Disease.</i> | <i>Age of Patient.</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|
| | 0-1 | 1-2 | 2-3 | 3-4 | 4-5 | 5-6 | 6-7 | 7-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-30 | 30-40 | Over 40 | Unknown | Total |
| Measles | 5 | 12 | 17 | 10 | 9 | 25 | 10 | 34 | 35 | 21 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 187 |
| Whooping Cough | — | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 10 |
| Pneumonia ... | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 3 | 3 | 1 | — | 7 | 1 | 17 |
| Scarlet Fever ... | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 12 |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Acute Polio- Encephalitis ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Erysipelas ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 2 |

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The state of Immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1945 is indicated below.

| <i>Under 5 years of age.</i> | | <i>Between 5 and 15 years of age.</i> | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Number.</i> | <i>Percentage of group.</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>Percentage of group.</i> |
| 237 | 39.368% | 734 | 66.126% |

The unsatisfactory response to the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme which was noted in the report for 1944 continued during 1945. It became clear, however, from enquiries which were made to ascertain the reason for parental indifference, that mothers living in remote cottages experienced difficulty in bringing young children to the clinics even when these were held at the nearest school. The introduction of general practitioners to the Council's scheme may improve the position inasmuch as they can, where necessary, immunise in the home. Proposals to this end will be placed before the council early in 1946.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1945 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 18 males and 15 females who normally reside in the district. During the year 4 new cases were notified, all on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

During the same period 3 deaths of persons suffering from this disease occurred.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages).

| <i>Disease.</i> | <i>Male.</i> | <i>Female.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Tuberculosis | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Cancer (all forms) | 8 | 8 | 16 |
| Heart and Blood Vessels | 27 | 23 | 50 |
| Bronchitis and Pneumonia | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| Diseases of Digestive system | 1 | — | 1 |
| Nephritis | 3 | — | 3 |
| Congenital Conditions | 5 | — | 5 |
| Violence | — | 1 | 1 |

